

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 /075 W

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R 291125Z NOV 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IS, US

SUBJ: US/ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND

INVESTMENT

1. POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR FIRST MEETING OF US/ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT RECEIVED LOW-KEY COMMENT IN ISRAELI PRESS. HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS MORE TO DELAY THAN JUST NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO RESOLVE TECHNICAL DIFFERENCES. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS VIEW IS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT WRITING IN HAARETZ OF NOVEMBER 29. EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT "CERTAIN SPOTS AND SHADOWS ON SURFACE OF US/ISRAELI RELATIONS", HE STATES THAT "OF NO LESS CONCERN IS THE ECONOMIC PROCRASTINATION. THE POSTPONEMENT OF YEHOSHUA RABINOWITZ'S VISIT IS NOT JUST A TECHNICAL STEP. IT IS INTENTIONAL PROCRASTINATION, AIMED AT SLOWING DOWN THE TEMPO OF US AID TO ISRAEL AND TO BRING IT IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. ALSO THE LIMITATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON FOOD SURPLUSES TO A QUANTITY OF ONLY 15 PERCENT OF WHAT EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE RECEIVED, IS FED BY POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS."

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2. NO GOI OFFICIAL HAS MADE STATEMENT TO PRESS ON POST-PONEMENT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, BUT TWO COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SO FAR. MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY BAR-LEV WAS QUOTED NOVEMBER 26 AS SAYING "AGREEMENT NOT READY FOR SIGNATURE. RESPONSE HAS NOT YET BEEN SUPPLIED BY US TO CERTAIN PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY GOI." ON SAME DAY ECONOMIC MINISTER SHER (ISRAELI EMBASSY, WASHINGTON) QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING IN WASHINGTON THAT "DELAY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT CHANGE IN US POLICY. FIVE POINTS REMAIN OPEN AND REQUIRE DECISIONS BY HIGH OFFICIALS WHO CURRENTLY ABSENT FROM WASHINGTON." KEATING

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Message Attributes

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